Further, with a view to make quick and less expensive justice accessible to the common man at the grass root level, Government has introduced a Bill to establish Gram Nyayalayas in the rural areas.

At present there is no specific proposal before the Government to bring about any change in the procedure of appointment of Judges, extending the working hours or the language of courts.

A large number of disputes have already been settled and are being settled regularly through Lok Adalat system. The people in general are being made aware of the utility and advantage of resolution of disputes through Lok Adalats,

Jobs for the physically challenged

*375. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are creating 1,00,000 jobs for the physically challenged. persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of physically challenged persons in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Budget Speech for the year 2007-08, Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced a scheme for reimbursing Government Share of Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for a period of 3 years to employers in the organized sector for providing regular jobs to Physically Challenged Persons.

(c) According to the survey on disabled persons conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization in 2002, only 26 per cent persons with disabilities were employed.

Grants to private sector for setting up of food testing laboratories

*376. SHRl RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRlES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being followed for providing grants to private limited companies or non-Government bodies for setting up of food processing and testing laboratories;

(b) the details of guidelines, alongwith the steps being taken to set up world class food testing and quality control laboratories in Uttarakhand, in collaboration with the private sector;

(c) the names and the details of the food testing laboratories presently functioning in the State;

(d) whether steps are being taken to open more laboratories specially in industrial zones like Rudrapur and Haridwar;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRl SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (f) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been providing financial assistance under its 10th Plan Scheme to Central/State Government organizations, IITs, universities and private sector organisations for setting up/upgradation of food testing laboratories in order to meet domestic as well as international standards of food products. Central/State Government organisations, IITs and Universities are eligible for grant-in-aid amounting to entire cost of the capital equipments required for setting up/ upgradation of laboratories. All other implementing agencies such as nonGovernment Bodies and private sector organisations are eligible for grant-in-aid limited to 33% of the cost of capital equipments required for setting up/upgradation of such laboratories for general areas and 50% for difficult areas. The food testing facilities created with the financial assistance of MFPI, should also be made available to food processing units in and around the area.

As per guidelines of this Ministry, the complete proposals are to be recommended by the State Governments/ Union Territories if they are received from private sector organisations or non-Government Bodies for setting up /up-gradation of food testing laboratories. These proposals are examined and considered for approval of financial assistance, based on specific requirements such as quality parameters being tested, laboratory equipments required to test these parameters, testing requirements of the food processing industries and other stakeholders in and around the area and the capabilities of the applicant to manage the laboratory.

MFPI has so far assisted 36 organizations for setting up/upgradation of food testing laboratories and approved grant-in-aid of Rs. 52.83 crore under its Plan Scheme.

Of this, MFPI has provided grant-in-aid of Rs. 32.00 lakh to G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) for upgradation of food testing laboratory. MFPI has written to all State Governments/Union Territories to forward the proposals for financial assistance for setting up/upgradation of world class food testing and quality control laboratories to facilitate food processing industries and other stakeholders. MFPI does not set up food testing laboratories on its own. MFPI has not received. any proposal from State Government of Uttarakhand for setting up/upgradation of world class food testing and quality control laboratories in industrial zones like Rudrapur and Haridwar.

In order to make the scheme more attractive for non-Government Bodies and private sector organisations, MFPI has submitted a proposal to Planning Commission to increase the level of financial assistance towards setting up/ upgradation of food testing and quality control laboratories in the country during Elventh Plan.